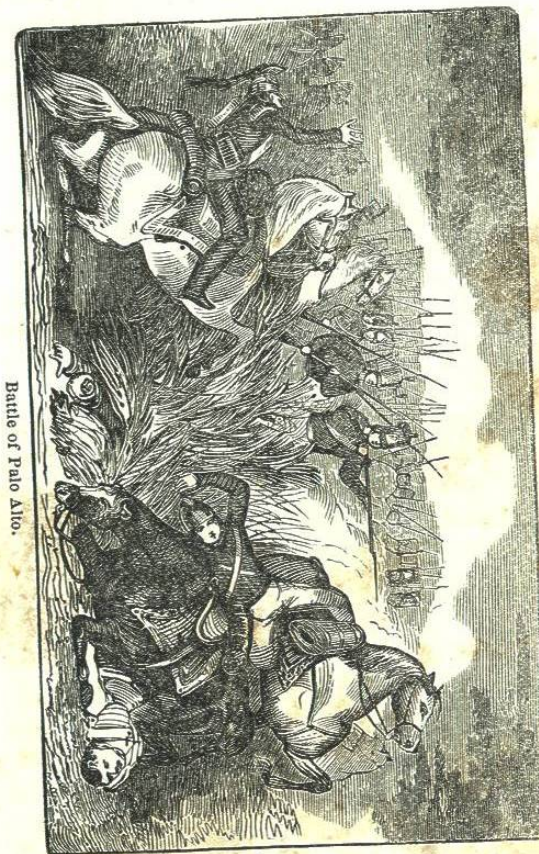


by Lieutenant Churchill, 3d artillery; 4th infantry, commanded by Major G. W. Allen; the 3d and 4th regiments composed the third brigade, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Garland; and all the above corps, together with two squadrons of dragoons under Captains Ker and May, composed the right wing under the orders of Colonel Twiggs. The left was formed by the battalion of artillery commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Childs. Captain Duncan's light artillery, and the 8th infantry, under Captain Montgomery—all forming the first brigade, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Belknap. The train was packed near the water, under direction of Captains Crossman and Myers, and protected by Captain Ker's squadron.

At two o'clock we took up the march by heads of columns, in the direction of the enemy—the eighteen-pounder battery following the road. While the columns were advancing, Lieutenant Blake, topographical engineer, volunteered a reconnoissance of the enemy's line, which was handsomely performed, and resulted in the discovery of at least two batteries of artillery in the intervals of their cavalry and infantry. These batteries were soon opened upon us, when I ordered the columns halted and deployed into line, and the fire to be returned by all our artillery. The 8th infantry on our extreme left, was thrown back to secure that flank. The first fires of the enemy did little execution, while our eighteen-pounders and Major Ringgold's artillery soon dispersed the cavalry which formed his left.—Captain Duncan's battery, thrown forward in advance of the line, was doing good execution at this time. Captain May's squadron was now detached to support that battery, and



Battle of Palo Alto.

the left of our position. The Mexican cavalry, with two pieces of artillery, were now reported to be moving through the chaparral to our right, to threaten that flank, or make a demonstration against the train. The 5th infantry was immediately detached to check this movement, and supported by Lieutenant Ridgely, with a section of Major Ringgold's battery and Captain Walker's company of volunteers, effectually repulsed the enemy—the 5th infantry repelling a charge of lancers, and the artillery doing great execution in their ranks. The 3d infantry was now detached to the right as a still farther security to that flank yet threatened by the enemy. Major Ringgold, with the remaining section, kept up his fire from an advanced position, and was supported by the 4th infantry.

The grass of the prairie had been accidentally fired by our artillery, and the volumes of smoke now partially concealed the armies from each other. As the enemy's left had evidently been driven back and left the road free, as the cannonade had been suspended, I ordered forward the eighteen-pounders on the road nearly to the position first occupied by the Mexican cavalry, and caused the first brigade to take up a new position still on the left of the eighteen-pounder battery. The 5th was advanced from its former position and occupied a point on the extreme right of the new line. The enemy made a change of position corresponding to our own, and after the suspension of nearly an hour the action was resumed.

The fire of artillery was now most destructive—openings were constantly made through the enemy's ranks by our fire, and the constancy with which the Mexican

infantry sustained the severe cannonade was a theme of universal remark and admiration. Captain May's squadron was detached to make a demonstration on the left of the enemy's position, and suffered severely from the fire of artillery to which it was for some time exposed. The 4th infantry, which had been ordered to support the eighteen-pounder battery, was exposed to a most galling fire of artillery, by which several men were killed, and Captain Page dangerously wounded. The enemy's fire was directed against our eighteen-pounder battery, and the guns under Major Ringgold, in its vicinity. The major himself, while coolly directing the fire of his pieces, was struck by a cannon ball and mortally wounded.*

In the mean time the battalion of artillery under Lieutenant-Colonel Childs, had been brought up to support the artillery on our right. A strong demonstration of cavalry was now made by the enemy against this part of our line, and the column continued to advance under a severe fire from the eighteen-pounders. The battalion was instantly formed in square, and held ready to receive

* The death of Major Ringgold was universally lamented. He was a native of Washington county, Maryland, born in 1800. He was educated at the Military Academy, West Point; graduated in 1818; entered the army as lieutenant; promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in 1822, and to that of captain in 1834. His brevet rank of major was the reward of severe service in the Florida war. To his exertions in perfecting the discipline of the light artillery, the country is chiefly indebted for the efficiency of that important arm of the national defense.

Major Ringgold's connections were of the first respectability. His father was General Samuel Ringgold, and his mother was a daughter of General John Cadwalader, who was greatly distinguished in the war of the Revolution. His conduct and character as an officer and a gentleman were in every respect worthy of so highly honourable a descent.

the charge of cavalry; but when the advancing squadrons were within close range a deadly fire of canister from the eighteen-pounders dispersed them. A brisk fire of small arms was now opened upon the square, by which one officer, Lieutenant Luther, 2d artillery, was slightly wounded; but a well-directed volley from the front of the square silenced all farther firing from the enemy in this quarter. It was now nearly dark, and the action was closed on the right of our line, the enemy having been completely driven back from his position, and foiled in every attempt against our line.

While the above was going forward on our right, and under my own eye, the enemy had made a serious attempt against the left of our line. Captain Duncan instantly perceived the movement, and by the bold and brilliant manœuvering of this battery, completely repulsed several successive efforts of the enemy to advance in force upon our left flank. Supported in succession by the 8th infantry and Captain Ker's squadron of dragoons, he gallantly held the enemy at bay, and finally drove him, with immense loss, from the field. The action here and along the whole line, continued until dark, when the enemy retired into the chaparral in rear of his position.

Our loss this day was nine killed, forty-four wounded, and two missing. Among the wounded were Major Ringgold, who has since died, and Captain Page dangerously wounded, and Lieutenant Luther slightly so. I annex a tabular statement of the casualties of the day.

Our own force engaged is shown by the field report, herewith transmitted, to have been one hundred and seventy-seven officers and two thousand one hundred

and eleven men; aggregate, two thousand two hundred and eighty-eight. The Mexican force, according to the statement of their own officers, taken prisoners in the affair of the 9th, was not less than six thousand regular troops, with ten pieces of artillery, and probably exceeded that number—the irregular force not known. Their loss was not less than two hundred killed, and four hundred wounded—probably greater. This estimate is very moderate, and founded upon the number actually counted on the field, and upon the reports of their own officers.

As already reported in my first brief despatch, the conduct of our officers and men was every thing that could be desired. Exposed for hours to the severest trials—a cannonade of artillery—our troops displayed a coolness and constancy which gave me throughout the assurance of victory. I purposely defer the mention of individuals until my report of the action of the 9th, when I will endeavour to do justice to the many instances of distinguished conduct on both days."

The Mexicans evinced great determination in this first day's battle, and remained almost within sight of the American army during the night. General Arista employed the night in writing a despatch to the minister of war and marine, giving an eloquent account of what he claimed as his victory, and at daybreak on the 9th, slowly moved into the chaparral, leaving General Taylor in possession of the battle-field. Fearing that the enemy might dispute his progress towards Fort Brown, as the fortification opposite Matamoras was now named, he ordered the train to be strongly parked. An intrenchment was thrown up, and the artillery battalion, with two

eighteen-pounders and two twelve-pounders were assigned to its defence.

The army then moved over the plain in line of battle with lively music, marking every where around them the evidences of the terrible destruction produced by the American artillery on the previous day. Wounded soldiers, dying of thirst and hunger, received relief from their generous enemies. The ground was covered with torn clothing, military caps, gun-stocks, and large quantities of cartridges for muskets and artillery. On the edge of the chaparral, the army halted at a place convenient to water. A detachment under Captain McCall was sent forward into the chaparral to ascertain the position of the enemy. General Taylor then rode back to the train, accompanied by Lieutenant J. E. Blake of the topographical corps, who had displayed the utmost gallantry on the previous day. At the train, Lieutenant Blake dismounted from his horse to procure some refreshment, and expressed gratification at the prospect of a little rest, his labours during the previous twenty-four hours having been very arduous. He unbuckled his holsters and threw them on the ground, when one of the pistols unaccountably exploded, throwing the ball upwards into his body. He was mortally wounded, and expired shortly after, expressing his regret that he had not died on the battle-field on the preceding day.

Captain McCall with the advance guard found the enemy intrenched at La Resaca de la Palma, the Dry River of Palms, a strong position entirely commanding the approach to Fort Brown. At this place the road crosses a ravine sixty yards wide and nearly breast high, the bottom being wet, forming long and serpentine ponds

through the prairie. Along the banks of this dry river, and more particularly on the side then occupied by the Mexicans, the chaparral grows most densely, and at this time, save where it was broken in by the passage of the road, formed almost a solid wall. The enemy occupied this ravine in double line; one behind and under the front bank, and the other intrenched behind the wall of the chaparral on the top of the rear ridge. A battery was placed in the centre of each line on the right and left of the road, and a third battery was on the right of the first line. Six or seven thousand troops were thus strongly fortified in a form resembling a crescent, between the horns of which the army had to pass, while the Mexican batteries were enfilading and cross firing, the narrow road which formed the only unobstructed approach to their position. Lieutenant Ridgely, the successor of Ringgold, was ordered forward on the road, while the 3d, 4th, and 5th regiments of infantry were ordered forward as skirmishers to cover the battery and engage the infantry of the enemy. General Taylor and his staff came up with Captain McCall and his party at four o'clock. He immediately deployed Captain McCall to the left of the road, and Captain C. F. Smith to the right, with orders to bring on the action.

Having received orders to advance, Lieutenant Ridgely moved cautiously forward with Captain Walker, who was charged with assisting him to find the enemy's batteries. At the instant they discovered them, they received a fire from them, which Ridgely, moving about a hundred yards to the front, returned with spirit. This contest was maintained for some time, their balls filling the air, and passing through Ridgely's battery in every direc-

tion. His men worked at their guns with invincible determination, and he himself sighted them with all the coolness and certainty of ordinary target practice. These well-directed charges were necessary to keep off the enemy who were constantly charging upon him, and whom he had sometimes to beat back with his own sword. The rapid firing of the artillery on both sides produced an unintermitted roar. Colonel Duncan's battery was at the edge of the ravine, but he could not use it; Lieutenant Ridgely holding the only position from which the enemy could be assailed without galling our troops. These had come into the action in the most extraordinary manner, the firing of their musketry being heard at almost the same instant that Ridgely opened his fire in the centre.* The 6th regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel McIntosh supported Ridgely's battery. The 3d

* It is to be observed that the artillery, during the whole course of the present war, has proved the most efficient arm of the service in determining the fate of battles, with, perhaps, the exception of the rifle corps in the recent battles near the city of Mexico. Nothing can exceed the efficiency and bravery of the rifle corps. General Scott's pointed eulogy of their conduct was richly deserved.

The efficiency of this arm of the national defense, as we have had occasion to remark in another place, is greatly owing to the indefatigable exertions of Major Ringgold. In this important service the major was aided by Captain Duncan, whose battery rendered most efficient service in the battles of the 8th and 9th of May, as well as in the other most important engagements of the war. The batteries of Sherman, Bragg, and Washington have also become famous, especially by their efficient service at Buena Vista.

The services of the artillery in the battle of Buena Vista were so essential, that it is considered by all military men, that the absence of a small portion of it would undoubtedly have occasioned the loss of the battle.

regiment with a part of the 4th came up on the enemy's right, and the other portion of the 4th joined with the 5th on the left. The 3d and 4th were separated by the chaparral, through which the soldiers literally pushed each other into squads of five or six, and they were obliged to form in the ravine. The 8th, under Captain Montgomery, with Smith's light and other corps, faced to the right. The best troops of Mexico were now contending with the greatest bravery for victory. The contest with artillery and musketry, the sword and the bayonet, at the end of two hours, resulted in the Americans gaining possession of the ravine in which the enemy were posted at the beginning of the action. Yet the batteries in the centre still stood firm, pouring a perfect shower of grape and shells into the American front, and prevented General Taylor from reaping the advantages which the bravery of his troops would otherwise have secured. Captain May rode back to the general, and asked if he should charge the battery on the other side of the ravine. "Charge, captain, nolens volens," was the reply, and away dashed the gallant fellow.* He rode to the head of his command; every rein and sabre was tightly grasped. Raising himself in the saddle, he shouted to his command, "We are ordered to take that battery—follow!" In columns of fours, they dashed along the narrow road, until they came to where Lieutenant Ridgely obstructed their advance. "I am ordered to charge those batteries," said May, coming to a halt. Ridgely knowing the perilous nature of the duty, said, "Wait, Charley, till I draw their fire!" All begrimed

* Henry's Campaign Sketches.

with powder and labouring with his own hands, he fired his pieces slowly and with the usual deadly effect. A storm of copper balls came whizzing and crushing among the artillerists in reply, while Ridgely and his men limbered up, jumped on their pieces, and cheered as May dashed forward. An overwhelming discharge of grape and bullets from the other battery destroyed his first and second platoons, but he was unhurt, and with those who lived swept to the left of the road leaped over the battery and drove the Mexicans from their guns. But they seemed determined to retain their pieces or die: they rushed back to them with the bayonet, and commenced to load them again with grape. May then charged back upon our own lines, and the enemy shrunk in terror from the stroke of his sword. One man, General La Vega, alone maintained his ground, and tried to rally his men; but was made a prisoner by Captain May, and carried under a galling fire from his own countrymen to our lines. The infantry now gathered round the batteries in masses, crossing bayonets for their possession, over the very muzzles of the guns. In a short time, Captain Belknap, with the 8th infantry, and Captain Martin Scott, with the 5th, were engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict with the far-famed Tampico veterans, who had been in twenty battles and were never defeated. The battery was carried, and the 8th and the 5th charged up the ravine amidst a terrible fire from the enemy's right and front. The battery of Colonel Duncan now came into the front, and the retreat of the enemy was hastened by his deadly fire. While the centre battery of the enemy was being carried, Lieutenants Ruggles and Crittenden, with a small command of the 5th and

the 8th infantry, all under Captain Montgomery, routed the right wing and carried the right battery. Between this and the centre battery, the Tampico regiment had been posted, all of whom, except seventeen, are said to have fallen at their posts. Their tri-colour was the last Mexican flag waving on the field, and the gallant fellow who bore it, when all hope was lost, tore it from the staff, and concealed it about his person while he attempted to fly. He was ridden down by the dragoons, however, and made a prisoner, and his flag was a trophy of the victory.

The hurry of the Mexicans to escape was so great, that many of them were drowned in the river. Immense quantities of baggage, military stores, and camp equipage fell into the hands of the Americans; the personal, public, and private property of Arista, and all his despatches being among the spoils. The American army passed the night on the battle-field, in the enjoyment of the festival which had been prepared by the followers of the Mexican camp to regale their friends after the anticipated victory. In his despatch after this brilliant victory General Taylor says:

"The loss of the enemy in killed has been most severe. Our own has been very heavy, and I deeply regret to report that Lieutenant Inge, 2d dragoons, Lieutenant Cochrane, 4th infantry, and Lieutenant Chadbourne, 8th infantry, were killed on the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Payne, 4th artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel McIntosh, Lieutenant Dobbins, 3d infantry, Captain Hooe and Lieutenant Fowler, 5th infantry; and Captain Montgomery, Lieutenants Gates, Selden, McClay, Burbank, and Jordan, 8th infantry were wounded. The extent of

our loss in killed and wounded is not yet ascertained, and is reserved for a more detailed report.

The affair of to-day may be regarded as a proper supplement to the cannonade of yesterday; and the two taken together, exhibit the coolness and gallantry of our officers and men in the most favourable light. All have done their duty and done it nobly. It will be my pride, in a more circumstantial report of both actions, to dwell upon particular instances of individual distinction.

It affords me peculiar pleasure to report that the field-work opposite to Matamoras has sustained itself handsomely during a cannonade and bombardment of one hundred and sixty hours. But the pleasure is alloyed with profound regret at the loss of its heroic and indomitable commander, Major Brown, who died to-day from the effect of a shell. His loss would be a severe one to the service at any time, but to the army under my orders, it is indeed irreparable. One officer and one non-commissioned officer killed, and ten men wounded, comprise all the casualties incident to this severe bombardment.

I inadvertently omitted to mention the capture of a large number of pack-mules left in the Mexican camp."

"So confident," says Captain Henry, in his interesting work, 'Campaign Sketches of the War with Mexico,' "were the Mexicans of victory, that Ampudia, speaking to Captain Thornton, who was then their prisoner, said, 'it was utterly impossible it could be otherwise; that their numbers alone were sufficient, independent of those *veteran* regiments.' General La Vega said, that 'if he had any sum of money in camp he should have considered it as safe as if at the city of Mexico; and he

would have bet any amount that no ten thousand men could have driven them off.'"

Our loss in this action was three officers and thirty-six men killed, and twelve officers and fifty-nine men wounded. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded, and missing, was not less than two thousand, taking the two days fighting together.

On the morning after the battle, General Taylor, with characteristic humanity, sent to Matamoras for Mexican surgeons to attend to their wounded, and for men to bury their dead. The American army was occupied at the same time upon the same mournful duty.

On the 11th General Taylor again left Fort Brown for Point Isabel, in order to arrange with Commodore Conner the plan of a combined land and naval attack upon the Mexican posts on the Rio Grande. While at the Point, he despatched a hasty letter to Washington, from which we make the following extracts: "I avail myself of this brief time at my command to report that the main body of the army is now occupying its former position opposite Matamoras. The Mexican forces are almost disorganized, and I shall lose no time in investing Matamoras, and opening the navigation of the river." * * * "I have exchanged a sufficient number of prisoners to recover the command of Captain Thornton. The wounded prisoners have been sent to Matamoras; the wounded officers on their parole. General Vega and a few others have been sent to New Orleans, having declined a parole, and will be reported to Major-General Gaines. I am not conversant with the usages of war in such cases, and beg that such provision may be made for these prisoners as may be authorized by law. Our own prisoners

have been treated with great kindness by the Mexican officers."

On the morning of the 13th he started for camp with an escort of dragoons, but having been met by an express with the information that large bodies of fresh troops had arrived at Matamoras, and that the enemy was concentrating troops at Barita, he returned to the Point. Here he found a newly arrived detachment of troops from New Orleans, including regulars and volunteers from Louisiana and Alabama, an accession which enabled him to withdraw from the Point a force of six hundred men with a train of artillery, two hundred and fifty wagons, and a large quantity of military and other stores. With this force he set out on the morning of the 14th for Fort Brown. He had previously arranged a plan for an attack upon Barita, a small town near the mouth of the Rio Grande, on the Mexican side of the river. This was executed by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, who captured the place without opposition. It speedily became a place of importance as the depot of the new base of operations, being the first high land reached in ascending the river above hurricane tides, and in a military point of view, commanding every thing around it, and commanded by nothing.

Want of the necessary means of transportation prevented General Taylor from crossing the Rio Grande to attack Matamoras until the 17th. On that day Colonel Twiggs was ordered to cross above the city, whilst Colonel Wilson was to make a demonstration from Barita. The Mexicans then attempted to induce General Taylor to agree to an armistice, that they might be able to carry off the public stores and munitions of war with which

Matamoras was filled, but General Taylor was too well versed in Mexican cunning to be cajoled. He stated that he had offered an armistice a month before, which Ampudia had declined; that he had neither invited nor provoked hostilities, but that he would not now suspend them while he was receiving large reinforcements; that the possession of Matamoras was now necessary to his troops, but that the Mexican army might retire, leaving behind them public property of every description. The Mexican General Reguena promised to return with an answer at three o'clock but failed to keep his word; the time of his mission and the interval allowed for his answer, being employed by Arista in throwing the public stores into the river, burying artillery in wells, and concealing other portions of the public property in and about the city. In the evening, General Taylor, finding that no answer had been returned, finished his preparations for crossing early in the morning, while Arista retreated from the city, taking with him two pieces of artillery and four thousand men, and leaving behind his sick and wounded.

On the morning of the 18th Captain Bliss had an interview with the prefect of the town, and demanded its surrender, and all the public stores therein. The prefect replied to the demand "that General Taylor could march his troops into the town at any time that might suit his convenience." While this conversation was going on, Colonel Twiggs was crossing with his troops above the town, his band playing "Yankee Doodle." The other troops crossed at Matamoras, and the star-spangled banner speedily waved over the walls of Fort Paredes.

The best description of the taking of Matamoras that has yet appeared is given in the following sketch, by an officer of the army, who like many of the gallant warriors now in Mexico, wields a pen with no less ability than he wears his sword. He says, "We reached this point on the 25th of May. The country through which we passed was lovely in the extreme—being as level as a ball-room floor, and full of little chaparrals and muskeet groves. Our road, though not exactly following the meanderings of the river, touched its banks often enough to obtain water every mile or two. The citizens were friendly to us, and showed little displeasure at the invasion. In fact, some of them expressed their wish that the country should be governed by Americans or some other people, that would guaranty them a liberal or stable government, so much had they been annoyed by the internal convulsions of their own. At every house we found three or four men, which induced me to believe that the press-gang had met with very poor success among them. They say that it is not their disposition to play the soldier at any time, particularly the present, and when the call is made for troops they leave their homes in possession of the women, and find business in the chaparral. They are a happy, simple people, whose aim seems to be to make provision for to-day, leaving to-morrow to look out for itself. All along the road they were found waiting with milk, a sort of bread, which they call *tortillias*, cheese, *poloncas*, or maple sugar, and a sort of liquor resembling, in looks and taste, San Croix rum. We paid them liberally for all we obtained, which to them must have presented a strong contrast to the Mexican soldiery, who spread dismay and devasta-

tion among their own people wherever they go. It seems to have been the desire of every man in our ranks to make the line of disparity between the American and Mexican soldier as palpable as possible; and the good effect of such conduct, if not immediately developed, will in the course of time be more apparent. Our march was very heavy, particularly during the day we left the Baritas, and some of our young men were very much used up. Two from company A were so much affected by the scorching sun as to be unable to proceed farther, and stopped at the house of a Mexican, where they received the utmost kindness and attention during the night, and were furnished with horses in the morning to catch up with us.

It was about ten o'clock in the morning when we reached the town of Matamoras, though its white buildings, so different from those we had passed on the route, had attracted the eyes long before that time. There was something far more attractive to the eye than the white buildings of the town—something to awaken a thrill of pleasure in the breasts of the whole regiment—the *stripes* and *stars* were majestically floating in the breeze from the highest point in Matamoras, and between the river and the town hundreds and hundreds of white tents were pitched in such admirable order as to induce the beholder to think it a great town.

As we entered the town at the east end, thousands of people sallied out of their houses to look upon us, whose looks more bespoke a welcome to their own army than to that of the invaders. At many a half-opened door or window was to be seen the head of a senora, whose timidity or modesty (albeit they allow so little to the

Mexicans) forbade their emerging into the streets. Some of these women are indeed beautiful, though a great majority are indolent, slovenly, and destitute of that female delicacy which characterizes our own women. Their common dress is a white muslin skirt, tied quite loosely around the body, without any bodice; their chemise being the only covering for their breasts, in which they wear their jewelry and cross. I did not see one pair of stockings in all the town. From this style of dressing you will infer that pride of dress gives way to comfort and ease, and that, too, in a greater degree than I think the largest liberty would warrant them indulging in. I went into a house yesterday evening, occupied by an old man and two daughters, both speaking a sufficiency of English to be understood. After being seated for a few moments, the eldest of the daughters went to the bed and brought to me a lovely and interesting child, as white almost as any of our own people. She informed me that she was married about two years ago to a Texan prisoner, and that he had been killed whilst fighting under General Taylor. She spoke in the highest terms of her deceased lord, and seemed to worship his image in the child. She is a lovely creature, and, I think, deeply devoted to our cause.

Matamoras is a much handsomer place than I expected to find it. It covers two miles square, though by no means as compact as an American city—every house except those around the public square, has a large garden attached. The houses in the business part of the town are built after the American fashion, though seldom exceeding two stories in height. All the windows to these buildings are grated from top to bottom with iron bars,

and half of the door only opens for admittance, which gives them the appearance of prisons more than business houses. The public square is in the centre of the town, and must have been laid off by an American or European, for the Mexicans never could have laid it out with such beauty and precision. On the four sides of the square, the houses are built close together, as in block, and are of the same size and height, with the exception of the cathedral, which, though unfinished, still towers above the others. In these houses are sold dry goods, groceries, and every kind of wares, with now and then an exchange or coffee-house. They are principally occupied by Europeans, and you can hear French, English, Spanish, and German spoken at the same time. After leaving the public square on either side, the houses decrease in size and beauty for two or three squares, when the small reed and thatched huts commence, and continue to the extreme limits of the place.

In walking through the streets, my attention was attracted to a house, in the door of which stood, or leaned, two half-naked Mexicans, so woe-begone as to cause me to halt. On my nearing the door, a most disagreeable stench almost induced me to recede. I mustered courage to enter the door. On the floor, lying upon mats, without covering, were near fifty Mexicans, wounded in the late engagements, attended by some ten or twelve women. The smell of the place was insufferable, and I had to leave it. The next door was the same, and so on for about twenty houses. A friend of mine called my attention to a room in which there were at least forty of these miserable objects, and this room was scarcely twelve feet square. There was not positively room for the nurses

to attend them. Some had lost a leg, others an arm, and some both legs and arms. I noticed one who will certainly get well, whose legs were shot off within two or three inches above the knees, and he seemed to me to have a greater flow of spirits than some who had only flesh wounds. I said to him that had his wounds been made by a Mexican shot, he would have been dead, to which he replied, 'The American shot was very good—no poisonous copper in them!' One had died just before I had entered the room, and they were making preparations to carry him out. He had been shot in the mouth by a rifle ball, which passed under the left ear, and he had lived from the 9th up to this time. There are between three hundred and fifty and four hundred of these horrid objects in this place, and the sight of them would induce many a stout heart to lament the horrors of war. These men give the number of killed and wounded on the 9th much greater than the Americans ever claimed,—some say twelve hundred, and some, fifteen hundred,—but enough of them."

Colonel Twiggs was appointed governor of Matamoras, and immediately afterwards the prefect or former governor retired in disgust. Don Jesus Cardenas, for that was his name, appears to have been distinguished for his tyranny and his hatred to foreigners. The only care he expressed in surrendering the city was whether he could retain his office; the privileges or interests of the citizens being matters of no consequence to him.

General Taylor issued orders to his men to respect strictly the private property of the citizens, and permitted the latter to go on with their business as usual, prohibiting only the sale of intoxicating liquors. "The